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Cc: Fong, Wendy[Fong.Wendy@epa.gov]
From: Mindy Clements
Sent: Thur 7/28/2016 3:18:43 PM
Subject: Weekly Report of Partnerships, Land Revitalization & Cleanup Branch for the Week of 07/29/2016

Highlights of Past Week

Targeted Brownfields Assessment (Fresno, CA): EPA conducted field work in Fresno, CA to evaluate environmental conditions on a site occupied by the Saint Rest Baptist Church. The church operates a food and clothing distribution center out of a former meat packing warehouse on the property and plans to renovate the building. Historical on-site operations have included a gas station and automobile service station. The field work included collecting soil samples for volatile organic compounds (VOC), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and lead analyses, and exploring for potential remaining underground fuel storage tanks, none of which were detected. EPA also conducted an asbestos and lead-based paint survey in the warehouse building. The church plans to use the information from the assessment to support an application for a Brownfields Cleanup Grant. (Contact: Lisa Hanusiak x2-3152)



Round Valley and Hoopa Valley Reservations: Brownfields staff will be conducting site visits at the Round Valley and Hoopa Valley Reservations 7/27 through 7/29. The purpose of the Round Valley Reservation visit is to tour several sites and to encourage the Round Valley Indian Tribes to apply for competitive and non-competitive resources from our program to address contamination at those sites. The Hoopa Valley Tribe visit is to conduct walk-throughs of several sites that will be assessed through their 128(a) Tribal Response Program grant, including the Copper Bluff Mine. John Hillenbrand will be joining Brownfields staff at the Copper Bluff Mine to determine current site conditions and to help develop the best path forward to mitigating the discharge from the mine that currently flows into the Trinity River. (Contact: Eric Byous x2-3531)

Central Basin Visualization: Preliminary arrangements to transfer groundwater and geologic data from the LA Water Replenishment District and USGS to EPA and DTSC were discussed on July 28. Plans by the LA Replenishment District to create a separate Visualization Tool have been canceled because their funding proposal for water bond funds was not accepted. Integration of the data into the visualization model will occur over the next few months. (Contact: Matt Mitguard x2-3096)

Slauson Alameda Gage (SAG) Discovery Area: Subsequent to approval of the SAG Discovery report in June, 5 Preliminary Assessments were initiated on July 26. The SAG area is adjacent to the North East 710 Study area and includes 4 highly contaminated sections representing 9 active drinking water wells whose contaminants of concern include TCE, PCE, hexavalent chromium, chromium, and carbon tetrachloride. These sites and subsequent sampling data will be incorporated into the Central Basin Visualization project. (Contacts: Mitguard x2-3096 and Leslie Ramirez x2-3978).

SCRIBE Sample Management Training by ERT: SCRIBE Sample Management Training by ERT has been scheduled for August 9 at the Regional Lab. Data from SCRIBE will be incorporated into 3D analysis for site assessment project, including in the North East 710 area. Several DTSC representatives working on the EXIDE site in Southern California will also be attending in order to incorporate SCRIBE into their data collection efforts. (Contact: Matt Mitguard x2-3096)

Response to Mercury Poisoning from Face Cream in Tucson, AZ: An 18 month old toddler was diagnosed to have mercury poisoning that came from mercury salts in face cream that her mother was using. Jose Garcia (who was the first point of contact) spoke with members of the Border program (who have experience with mercury-containing face creams), Adrienne Prisela (Toxics Office), and Harry Allen/Robert Wise (Emergency Response) to determine what steps should be taken next to address potential contamination at the child's home. R. Wise arranged for an expert in mercury face cream with the California Department of Public Health to provide technical assistance to Pima County public health authorities and sent technical assessment contractors conducted an assessment of the residence in question. The assessment revealed elevated levels of ambient mercury and several hot spots in the residence (levels ranged from 2500 to 20,000 ng/m³). EPA is working with the landowner regarding their ability to pay for a cleanup. (Contact: Jose Garcia x.4-1811)

<http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/32503082/face-cream-containing-mercury-suspected-of-poisoning-tucson-child>

DOJ/Navajo Settlement: DOJ announced a Phase II settlement agreement with the Navajo Nation and the United States to clean up abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation. This settlement builds on the Phase I settlement (announced April 2015) to conduct cleanup investigations at 16 of the highest priority mines. Specifically, this latest settlement funds: cleanup of 16 priority mines, cleanup investigations at 30 mines, and studies at two mines to determine if groundwater or surface waters have been affected by those mines. (Linda Reeves x2-3445)

Section 9 Lease Abandoned Uranium Mine: Remedial Project Manager Amanda Pease and team visited Section 9 Lease last week to determine geologic units on site and select potential Background References Areas for each geologic unit to propose to Babbitt Ranches for the next phase of the project. The team consisted of PhD level geologists, radiation experts, and a representative of Babbitt Ranches. The EPA team was already in the field determining potential Background References Areas for El Paso Natural Gas' 19 mine claims, which are located in the same region of Navajo Nation. (Contact: Amanda Pease x2-3068)

Mac and Black Jack Mines: Access issues with the allottees have been resolved and Homestake contractors are in the field this week doing Cultural Resource Surveys. (Contact: Mark Ripperda x2-3028 and Priscilla Tom x2-3377)

Del Amo/Montrose Newsletter – Summer Intern Project (Los Angeles County, CA):

Yolanda Sanchez is working with a summer intern to develop a site updates newsletter for the Del Amo/Montrose Superfund sites. The summer intern has logged over 100 hours reviewing site documents and reading other newsletters from large Superfund sites across the country. The intern presented a draft newsletter example to the site team on July 18th and team members will be reviewing it over the next few weeks. (Contact: Yolanda Sanchez x2-3880)

Eureka Smelter Site (Eureka, NV): EPA has been invited by the community to attend Eureka's National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 2nd. CIC Sarah Cafasso and OSC Bret Moxley will represent the EPA site team at the event, where they will have an outreach table with information on the ongoing yard cleanup program in town. The team will also conduct door-to-door outreach to target any remaining yards that require sampling and/or remediation by EPA. (Contact: Sarah Cafasso x2-3076).

Significant Items for Next Week

Press Stories, Significant Policy, Regulatory, or Legal Actions (2-3 Weeks Out)

Grant Announcements

Legislative Engagement

Travel, Public/National Meetings, and Speaking Engagement for Division Director

30-60 Day Outlook

Other Information

Internal to Region 9

Internal to Division

Confidential Information